



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

Publicly Funded Response Element  
P.O. Box 420  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

Mail code: 401-05Q  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

November 14, 2014

Walter Mugdan, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region II  
290 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Removal Action Site Submission  
Former Kil-Tone Company  
527 East Chestnut Street  
City of Vineland, Cumberland County  
NJDEP/SRP PI#648249

Dear Mr. Mugdan:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submits the former Kil-Tone Company site and surrounding properties (LERCO and various residences) in the City of Vineland, Cumberland County for removal action consideration under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response and Cleanup Liability Act (CERCLA). Elevated levels of arsenic and lead contamination found in soil at commercial and residential properties associated with the former Kil-Tone Company site require immediate further action to protect public health.

DEP soil sampling at and around the former Kil-Tone Company site, a former Vineland pesticide plant, in August 2014 found elevated levels of arsenic at 12 residential and commercial properties, nine of which exhibited surface (0-6") contamination above state cleanup standards. Elevated levels of lead contamination were found in soil at six residential and commercial properties, five of which also exhibited arsenic contamination. DEP conducted the site investigation work under a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant at the former Kil-Tone Company site and adjacent properties. The former Kil-Tone Company site is owned by Urban Manufacturing LLC, also known as Urban Sign and Crane, which purchased the property in 2008 for the manufacturing of commercial signs.

The soil contamination found is above DEP's Site Remediation Program's residential/non-residential soil standard of 19 parts per million (based on natural background), ranging up to 90 ppm at the surface on one residential property and up to 740 ppm at the surface on the former Kil-Tone Company site. The lead ranges up to 1,100 ppm at the surface on one residential property, above DEP's Site Remediation Program's 400 ppm standard. DEP shared the sampling data from the site with the New Jersey Department of Health's (DOH) Environmental and Occupational Health Surveillance Program to evaluate health risks to residents and workers. DOH recommended that action to prevent contact with arsenic contamination at the surface of the former Kil-Tone Company site, now Urban Sign and Crane Inc., be

addressed as soon as possible because some surface soil contamination presents a cancer risk exceeding  $1 \times 10^{-4}$ , along with residential properties impacted that require further evaluation and risk prevention measures.

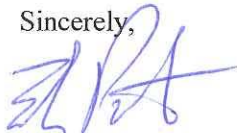
Groundwater sampling found contamination that ranges up to 14,000 parts per billion at the water table. Public water serves the neighborhood; some commercial wells remain in operation. In addition, sampling of Tarklin Branch located off site found the waterway is most likely impacted by arsenic discharges of the former Kil-Tone Company site.

The Kil-Tone Company operated from the late 1910s manufacturing arsenic-based pesticides until the late 1930s. A review of records by DEP found that the Kil-Tone Company was acquired by John Lucas & Company, Inc. in the mid-1920s and formed Lucas Kil-Tone Co. In about 1930, John Lucas & Company, Inc. was acquired by Sherwin Williams Co. and eventually became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Sherwin Williams Co. until it ceased operations in the 1930s. Specific compounds manufactured by Kil-Tone/Lucas Kil-Tone included copper lime calcium arsenate dust and lead arsenate.

LERCO, a fuel depot distribution facility located across the street at 520 Chestnut Ave., has been a fuel depot since the 1930s and contained several aboveground storage tanks with secondary containment. LERCO has performed remedial work on its property to address petroleum related constituents in soil and groundwater. In addition, LERCO reported elevated levels of arsenic and lead in soil and groundwater to DEP. Soil sampling at the LERCO site identified concentrations of arsenic of up to 20,500 ppm and lead up to 28,700 ppm. LERCO attributed the high arsenic and lead concentrations to the former Kil-Tone Company pesticide manufacturing operation. This information led DEP to perform the recent sampling in Vineland using federal grant funding.

DEP supplied information about the former Kil-Tone Company site and its property owner along with potential responsible parties to your Removal Action Branch to expedite a response. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in further detail, please contact me at (609) 984-9769 or Fred Mumford, Superfund coordinator in the Site Remediation Program, at (609) 530-3347.

Sincerely,



Ed Putnam  
Assistant Director  
Publicly Funded Response Element  
Site Remediation Program

- C: Mark Pedersen, Assistant Commissioner, DEP, Site Remediation Program  
Ken Kloo, Director, DEP, Site Remediation Program  
Fred Mumford, Section Chief, DEP, Site Remediation Program  
Joseph Rotola, Branch Chief, Removal Action Branch, EPA Region II  
Mel Hauptman, Section Chief, Special Projects Branch, EPA Region II